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Red-Tape Reduction Package moving through Legislature

LANSING – Almost half of the comprehensive bipartisan, bicameral legislation to implement a new processing deadline on nearly every permit or license issued to businesses in the state of Michigan is now headed to the governor, said Sen. Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac.

“This package will enable our permit and license system to be more efficient to help Michigan’s businesses,” said Gilbert, a member of the Senate Economic Development, Small Business and Regulatory Reform Committee, from which the 30 bills in the package were reported. “We are sending a strong message that the Legislature is committed to making things easier for companies to open or remain in business. They should not have to wait months or years to receive their permits.”

The Red-Tape Reduction Package is part of the Republican JOBS Action Plan for revitalizing the state’s economy. The plan specifically targets ways to attract new businesses, save existing jobs and promote a healthier business climate in the state.

The framework established by the new bills would:

- Implement a fixed processing deadline for issuance of a permit or license;
- Require the state to notify applicants within 30 days if an application is incomplete and requires additional information;
- Refund the current application fee, and provide a 15-percent discount on the subsequent period’s application fee, if a deadline is not met; and
- Require departments to provide reports to legislative committees to ensure the new laws are making permit and license processes more efficient and timely for businesses.

The new laws would affect licenses for new businesses as well as operational permits for current job providers.

Senate action on the remaining half of the bills in the Red-Tape Reduction Package is expected as early as next week.

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